



## Local News You Need to Know

EDITED BY EMMA BARHYDT

### FIREWORKS DISPLAYS SET FOR SATURDAY, JULY 2 AT BINNEY PARK AND GREENWICH POINT PARK

The Department of Parks and Recreation announces the locations of the two Town Fireworks Displays in celebration of Independence Day. Once again, the Town will present displays at Binney Park and Greenwich Point Park. Both shows are scheduled for Saturday, July 2. The Binney Park Show will start at approximately 9:10 p.m. and the Greenwich Point Show will begin at approximately 9:35 p.m. See page 4 for details.

### Abigail Anders Appointed Assistant Principal at North Mianus School



Dr. Toni Jones appointed Abigail Anders as assistant principal of North Mianus School. Anders will be replacing Kathleen Ramirez, who is becoming principal as of July 1st.

### GPS Rep. for 2023 Connecticut Teacher of the Year Selected

Tyler Mecozzi of Western Middle School has been selected for Greenwich Public Schools' Connecticut State Dept of Education's 2023 Connecticut Teacher of the Year Program. Mecozzi was recognized for this honor during the most recent Board of Education virtual meeting.

### COVID Numbers from Governor's Office

As of June 20, 246 patients were hospitalized with laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 in CT; this is down 25 patients. Of these, 85 (34%) are not fully vaccinated, 169 (66%) were fully vaccinated.

Each day the Governor's office emails an update on COVID numbers to Connecticut publications with a focus on hospitalizations and vaccination rates. The Sentinel publishes a summary of the most recent before going to press. For more information, visit <https://portal.ct.gov/coronavirus>.

### Greenwich United Way Welcomes New Board of Directors Members

The Greenwich United Way welcomed four new members at their annual meeting: Pamela Fornero, Sabrina Forsythe, Clarena McBeth and Antonio Miranda. See page 8 for details.

### Greenwich Celebrates First Juneteenth

Last Friday's Was Greenwich's first ever Juneteenth event. Juneteenth became a state holiday only recently, when it was passed by the legislature this past May and Gov. Ned Lamont signed it into law.

### New Officers Elected by the Greenwich Library's Board of Trustees

The Greenwich Library Board of Trustees elected

*Please turn to page 17*

## Green Thoughts

BY ANNE W. SEMMES

Years ago, this reporter compiled an anthology of quotations of care and concern for the earth stretching across 2000 years of environmental awareness.

This week: "To have arrived on this earth as the product of a biological accident, only to depart through human arrogance, would be the ultimate irony." Richard E. Leakey, 1977.

## Best Community Bank: First Bank of Greenwich

By MAESA PROCOPIO

A community feels united and whole when relationships are built amongst those who work alongside one another. The First Bank of Greenwich (FBOG) builds those strong relationships by providing much more than the typical services expected of a bank.

Named "Best Community Bank," the FBOG has routinely gone above and beyond for their clients, and it shows. For Sophia Scarpelli of Sophia's, honesty and integrity are the more distinguished qualities of the FBOG. In her words, "they do exactly what they tell you they're going to do. They commit."

Furthermore, they take time to remember who you are. "They really support their clients. I can't say it enough. They know your name and they treat you with respect," Sophia continued.

Marc Penvenne, owner of Meli Melo and Bistro V, corroborated this statement and said "they are incredibly helpful whenever I call. Frank, Amy and the entire operation are focused on customer service and doing whatever they can to help the customer."

Much like Sophia and Marc, Frank Cortese of New England Oil speaks highly of their customer service and their reliability. "Bigger banks don't really have customer service. They don't have the old feeling of shaking your hand and getting a deal done. It's a local bank, they know their customers and they love their customers like family. It's a good feeling to go in there and have that relationship," he stated.

Frank Gaudio, President and CEO of the FBOG, is praised by Scot Weicker for his "gregarious, outgoing, intelligent, articulate, honest, [and] trustworthy" personality. "Frank is one who is dedicated to the community as evidenced by the First Bank's commitment to so many local Non-Profits. I honestly don't know how he does it as the word 'no' is not in Frank's vocabulary," he continued.

Weicker commented not only on Gaudio's work ethic, but also on his character, conveying the significance of maintaining a positive attitude in business. "He is truly a man of the



First Bank of Greenwich (FBOG) President and CEO Frank Gaudio; Abilis President and CEO Amy Montimurro; Abilis client Theo Brown; FBOG Vice President and Retail Banking Manager Emily Newcamp; and FBOG Chief Lending Officer Evan Corsello, at Abilis' greenhouse. (Greenwich Sentinel photo)

## THE FIRST BANK OF GREENWICH<sup>SM</sup>

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people. He's most comfortable being with people vs. being behind a desk, although he is also masterful behind a desk making important decisions on a daily basis," recalled Weicker.

In response to being named "Best Community Bank", Gaudio said, "We are honored by this news. We take great pride in serving all of our customers to the best of our ability. To have our community recognize this means we are doing our job correctly. This is a testament to every one of our employees and the job they do. I am incredibly proud of each and every one of them."

Throughout town, people were eager to talk about their positive experiences with the bank. Robert Cardini, Operations Manager for Ceci

Brothers said, "for years we were courted by the FBOG. We always thought that staying with the super large banking institutions was the way to go. Boy, were we wrong! When COVID hit, our bank dragged their feet and basically were no help to us at all. Upon a referral and a direct phone call from the president of First Bank, we received their full assistance and a huge commitment to begin a new business relationship. For the past two years we can't say enough about the team at FBOG. Courteous, attentive, friendly, and unmatched professionalism. They truly are the 'hometown' bank of Greenwich, and we could not be happier that we made this move."

Ryan Nuckel, from the Greenwich

Historical Society, commended Gaudio and his staff for "their dedication and support of our programs, and for all they contribute to the town of Greenwich," and stated that "they are a trusted partner and have generously supported several of our community events, including the popular Music on the Great Lawn series of concerts."

It is not just for profit businesses that the bank works with, they also work with non-profits throughout town. One example is how, several years ago, they began working with Abilis, an organization that provides services and support for individuals with special needs and their families from birth throughout their lives.

Amy Montimurro, President and CEO of the organization (pictured above) said that Frank Gaudio "has interesting and wonderful ideas to help the organization." The bank has hosted art shows, featuring artwork from Abilis clients. Gaudio said "It's a blessing to have them do the work they do. This is the kind of organization the bank should be involved with."

The FBOG was named Best Community Bank because they treat those who walk in the door like family, offering help and support when needed. That incredible willingness to go the extra mile for clients is not only what keeps their clients coming back, but also has earned the bank a loyal and grateful following.

## Affirm, Affirm, Affirm

Illustrated by Wajih Chaudhry



By JILL S. WOOLWORTH, LMFT

By the time our children turn 18, they have absorbed everything we have taught or modeled for them. They can predict how we would respond to most questions or statements. They can mimic us mercilessly.

We have tried to praise their efforts rather than their outcomes. We have tried to make our boundaries few and firm, and our consequences fit the crime. We have tried to raise children who feel empowered, but not entitled. It has been exhausting and exhilarating. The good news is that after age 18, unless we see behavior that is immoral, illegal, or dangerous, our job is to affirm, affirm, affirm.

Parents worry about their children's choices of mates, jobs, and behaviors. Our kids will choose mates not on our short list, have jobs that didn't exist when we were their age, and behave in ways that surprise us. They have seen how we handle relationships, careers, and integrity issues. It is time to affirm their own abilities to make decisions, handle problems, and choose a good partner. Our fear does them no good. Our affirmation quiets our fearful brains and theirs—and helps them figure out their next steps.

When Tyler was a high school senior, his father thought he wasn't working up to his academic potential. They fought constantly and sought counseling. What Tyler needed was his dad's affirmation that he was a hard worker, capable of doing whatever he set his mind to. When Dad learned to highlight his son's successes, their relationship improved, and his son was motivated to pursue his own dreams.

Excerpted from Greenwich resident, Jill Woolworth's book, *The Waterwheel*, available at Diane's Books, Dogwood Bookstore, Amazon, and barnesandnoble.com. Jill is a therapist at the Greenwich Center for Hope & Renewal.

## Downton Abbey



By ELIZABETH BARHYDT

The much-anticipated cinematic return reunites the beloved cast as the Crawley family grapples with financial struggles, new challenges at home, and a trip to the south of France.

I agree with Stuart Adelberg of the Avon when he said, "It is beautifully filmed, well written, directed, and acted." This is a film that is exactly what it is supposed to be and is actually quite pleasant to watch. Roger Ebert said, "It's like having a veil lifted from your eyes."

I found it funny, charming, and endearing. With a score of 94% from audiences on rotten tomatoes, this is a movie well worth the price of admission and the two hours you will invest.

Whether you stream *Downton* or enjoy it in Stamford at the Avon Theatre, fans of *Downton Abbey* will feel at home with this new chapter which also neatly wraps up a few story lines.

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